

The Amherst County School Board met in regular session on Thursday, February 12, 2015, in the School Administration Office, Amherst, Virginia, at 6:00 p.m.

PRESENT: Alan J. Wood, Chairman
Patricia C. Massie, Vice Chairman
Alan H. Bumgarner
Elizabeth S. Gamble
W. Michael Henderson
Priscilla M. Liggon

Elizabeth Terry, Student Representative

ABSENT: Randy V. Summers

Mr. Wood called the meeting to order, asked that a moment of silence be observed, and asked everyone to stand for the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. Wood asked that the following item be added to end of the February 12, 2015, regular School Board agenda:

Closed meeting for personnel matters

Upon motion by Mr. Bumgarner, seconded by Mrs. Massie and unanimously carried, the Amherst County School Board approved the February 12, 2015, regular School Board meeting agenda as amended.

Dr. Nichols introduced Mr. Mark Campbell, Amherst County High School Band Director. Dr. Nichols and Mr. Campbell recognized members of the Amherst County High School Jazz Band for being selected for the All-Star Band as a part of the Lynchburg College Jazz Festival.

Dr. Nichols recognized the Amherst County Public Schools principals and assistant principals for their diligent leadership in public education and continuing services to the Amherst County Public Schools.

Mr. Wood stated he was pleased with the citizen turnout for the February 12, 2015, regular School Board meeting.

Mr. Wood stated the School Board has been engaged in many efforts including discussing the Proposed FY16 Budget, Ameresco, the Prismatic Report, and most important student achievement.

Mr. Wood stated that information had been provided to Board members concerning Pleasant View Elementary School. Mr. Wood stated the information was provided to School Board members pursuant to a request that was discussed in October 2014.

Mr. Wood asked that citizens who wished to make comments to direct the comments to the chair.

Mr. Wood asked that citizen comments be limited to three minutes.

Mr. Wood asked if anyone wished to address the Board.

Mr. Glen Mays, citizen, expressed appreciation to Board members regarding their service and commitment to the Amherst County Public Schools. Mr. Mays asked that Board members consider a salary increase for school health assistants. Mr. Mays also asked that Board members consider reinstating the health assistants at Pleasant View Elementary School and Temperance Elementary School.

Mrs. Donna Dodgion, secretary at Amherst County High School, asked the Board to consider salary increases for the employees of Amherst County Public Schools. Mrs. Dodgion shared several comments from other employees at Amherst County High School.

Mrs. Rita Hartless, teacher at Amherst County High School, stated there are fabulous students and teachers at Amherst County High School. Mrs. Hartless expressed concern about the age of some of the textbooks that are being used at Amherst County High School. Mrs. Hartless encouraged Board members to do the best they can for the students.

Ms. Andrea Orvos, teacher at Amherst County High School, shared the following information with Board members: some employees are living paycheck to paycheck; some employees are applying for food stamps to help ends meet; and some employees are working two jobs to make ends meet. Ms. Orvos asked Board members to consider salary increases for all employees.

Mrs. Laura Lewis, President of the Pleasant View Elementary School's PTO and parent, encouraged Board members to continue to invest in the schools and the community.

Mr. David Emmert and Mrs. Patricia Emmert, teachers at Amherst County High School, thanked the Board for their service. Mr. Emmert stated he understands there are limited funds for classroom materials, technology, soap, and paper towels. Mr. Emmert stated the staff needs the members of the School Board to be champions of education. Mr. Emmert asked Board members to support the proposed salary increase for all employees.

Mrs. Cheryl Fails, teacher at Amherst County High School, expressed appreciation to the Board for their service. Mrs. Fails stated some of the students at Amherst County High School wrote short notes expressing their views on what makes a good teacher. Mrs. Fails presented the notes that were written by the students to Board members and administrative staff.

Ms. Christie Cundiff, Principal at Amherst Middle School, and Mr. Derrick Brown, Assistant Principal at Amherst Middle School, shared information with the Board regarding a budget survey that was conducted with the staff at Amherst Middle School. The results of the survey showed the following: 75% of the staff has more than one job to supplement income to make up for the lack of salary increases; 68% of the staff has made significant changes to their lifestyle to compensate for the lack of salary increases; 58.33% of the employees have contemplated or actively sought employment elsewhere because of salary; and 29.79% of the employees will actively seek employment elsewhere if they receive less than a 5% increase in salary.

Ms. Cundiff shared letters with Board members from Ms. Meghan Shortt, teacher at Amherst Middle School, and Ms. Jessica Putnam, teacher at Amherst Middle School.

Mrs. Elizabeth Knowles, teacher at Amherst Middle School, stated her family of six could not afford to purchase a home because of childcare, student loans, etc. Ms. Knowles stated employees do not believe they are being heard. Mrs. Knowles asked Board members to support the proposed salary increase.

Mrs. Vicki Owen, school nurse at Amherst County High School, stated that students and faculty come to her as the school nurse. Mrs. Owen stated she is seeing more employees with stress related and mental health problems. Mrs. Owen stated that employee morale is down and need financial support.

Mr. Jonathan Collins, teacher at Amherst County High School, stated he is working two jobs to make ends meet. Mr. Collins stated he believes this could be affecting his students. Mr. Collins asked Board members to reinstate the step and provide a cost-of-living adjustment.

Ms. Rachel Daughtry, secretary at Amherst County High School, stated she was working two jobs and was unable to spend time with her child. Ms. Daughtry asked Board members to support the proposed 5% salary increase.

Mrs. Cheryl Nelson, teacher at Amherst County High School, stated she works a second job to make ends meet. Mrs. Nelson shared with Board members her wage statement from November 2008 and her wage statement of January 2015. Mrs. Nelson stated that her take home pay for November 2008 was more than her take home pay for January 2015.

Ms. Brittany Titus, paraprofessional, encouraged Board members to provide a salary increase.

Mr. Wood asked if anyone else wished to address the Board. No one else addressed the Board.

Mr. Wood stated the next item on the agenda was Items from Board Members.

Mrs. Gamble stated she addressed the Amherst Town Council on Tuesday, February 10, 2015, regarding the water & sewer rates for Amherst Middle School and Central Elementary School. Mrs. Gamble stated the rates for Amherst Middle School and Central Elementary School were double because the schools are not in the town. Mrs. Gamble stated the members of the Town Council did not make any promises; however, stated the request to lower the rates for Amherst Middle School and Central Elementary School would be considered by the Town Council Water Committee.

Mr. Henderson asked if Dr. Nichols was going to share information regarding the proposed salary increase the House and Senate proposed in its budgets.

Dr. Nichols stated he plans to share information with the Board regarding the proposed House and Senate budgets.

Mr. Henderson thanked everyone for attending the School Board meeting.

Mr. Bumgarner stated that people who feel appreciated will do more and people who do not feel appreciated would do less.

Ms. Terry provided information to Board members on students who had been recognized for their accomplishments as well as the upcoming events students would be participating in around Amherst County.

Mrs. Liggon stated when she accepted the position on the School Board she thought she could make a difference. Mrs. Liggon stated someone other than the School Board has the money for the county departments. Mrs. Liggon stated the concerns of the citizens were not falling on deaf ears. Mrs. Liggon stated she has been to Washington and Richmond to address the concerns, and their recommendation was to go back to the local government.

Mrs. Liggon stated she was concerned that textbooks have been addressed as a concern at two School Board meetings.

Dr. Norman explained how textbooks are evaluated and prioritized for the content areas. Dr. Norman stated there is input from teachers and principals when textbooks are needed. Dr. Norman stated

schools are provided trade books to assist in the classrooms. Dr. Rogers reminded Board members of two years when there were no state textbooks allotments. Currently the cycle for adoption is beginning for the content areas.

Mrs. Liggon stated she was also concerned that a citizen had stated there was a problem at Amherst County High School with bathrooms that do not work. Mrs. Liggon stated this was unacceptable.

Dr. Nichols stated he would have Mr. Cocke check on the problem at Amherst County High School regarding the bathrooms that do not work.

Mrs. Liggon stated she attended a Laurel Board meeting and everything was going well.

Mrs. Liggon asked if the administration had reviewed the proposed calendar for Lynchburg City Schools and asked how this would affect Amherst County Public Schools.

Dr. Nichols stated he had not reviewed the proposed calendar for Lynchburg City Schools.

Mrs. Liggon stated it appears that the Central Virginia Community College Amherst Satellite Program will be open one more year.

Mr. Wood stated he was concerned with the comments made regarding facilities and textbooks. Mr. Wood stated if books are fifteen years old, they could not be compatible with the SOL's.

Mrs. Gamble encouraged citizens to voice their concerns at the Amherst County Board of Supervisors meetings.

Upon motion by Mrs. Liggon, seconded by Mr. Henderson and unanimously carried, the Board approved the following consent agenda: minutes of the October 15, 2014, School Board Retreat, minutes of the December 11, 2014, regular School Board meeting, minutes of the January 21, 2015, School Board Retreat, minutes of the January 22, 2015, regular School board meeting, minutes of the February 4, 2015, regular School Board meeting, confirmation of the Superintendent's personnel actions for the period January 19, 2015 through February 6, 2015, a field trip request for Monelison Middle School eighth grade students to travel to the North Carolina Zoo, Asheboro, North Carolina on Thursday, April 2, 2015, and a supplemental appropriation to the 2014-2015 School Operational Budget.

Mr. Wood asked that the supplemental appropriation be changed to reflect that Mr. Summers was absent for the February 12, 2015, regular School Board meeting.

Dr. Nichols stated a list of student suspensions for January 2015, was at their place.

Dr. Norman stated she did not have a report on accountability measures.

Mr. Wood asked if there was a report from Mr. Wymer.

Dr. Norman stated Mr. Wymer plans to visit Madison Heights Elementary School on February 23, 2015 and February 24, 2015. Dr. Norman stated that the Office of School Improvement has scheduled a visit to Madison Heights Elementary School. Dr. Norman stated the deadline to file the School Improvement report with the Virginia Department of Education had been postponed until after the visit from the Office of School Improvement. Dr. Norman stated she would share the report with Board members as soon as it has been completed and filed with the Virginia Department of Education.

Dr. Nichols stated there was not any new information on facilities.

Dr. Nichols stated the chiller for Amherst Middle School had been ordered; however, not all of the parts had been ordered for the installation of the chiller.

Mrs. Liggon asked how many custodians worked at Amherst County High School.

Mr. Cocke stated seven custodians worked at Amherst County High School: two custodians work during the day and five custodians work in the evening. Mr. Cocke stated due to budget cuts, there had been a reduction of one custodian at Amherst County High School.

Dr. Nichols reminded Board members the Amherst County Public Schools Education Foundation Luncheon was scheduled on Friday, February 13, 2015, at Sweet Briar College.

Dr. Nichols stated February was School Board Appreciation Month. Dr. Nichols recognized the members of the Amherst County School Board for their dedication to Amherst County Public Schools. Dr. Nichols presented each School Board member with a Certificate of Recognition.

Dr. Nichols stated February 16-22, 2015, was School Board Clerk Appreciation Week. Dr. Nichols recognized Mrs. Teresa Crouch, School Board Clerk, for her dedication to Amherst County Public Schools. Dr. Nichols presented Mrs. Crouch with a Certificate of Recognition.

Dr. Nichols stated the six-month progress report on the Efficiency Study was due to the Department of Budget and Planning by February 22, 2015. Dr. Nichols provided Board members a copy of the report that would be submitted to the Department of Budget and Planning. Dr. Nichols stated the report shows the progress that Amherst County Public Schools had made regarding the recommendations of the Efficiency Study by Prismatic.

Mrs. Liggon asked when the Board was going to address the other recommendations of the Efficiency Study Report.

Mr. Wood stated the other recommendations of the Efficiency Study Report would be addressed after the FY16 Budget has been completed.

Mr. Wood asked if anyone wished to address the Board.

Mrs. Cheryl Fails, teacher at Amherst County High School, invited Board members to visit the classrooms.

Mrs. Martha Bryant, teacher at Amherst County High School, suggested the Amherst County Public Schools host a "Make a Difference Day" for donations from community and businesses.

Ms. Christie Cundiff, Principal at Amherst Middle School, stated over the past seven years, teachers at Amherst Middle School have done everything that was asked and had given 110%. Ms. Cundiff stated teachers do their jobs plus anything else that is asked of them.

Mr. Derrick Brown, Assistant Principal at Amherst Middle School, stated a comment had been made earlier in the meeting that people who are unappreciated do less. Mr. Brown stated teachers are dedicated and they find creative solutions. Mr. Brown stated the teachers need the support of the School Board.

Mrs. Melanie Lewis, teacher and President of the Amherst Education Association, thanked the Board for their hard work and dedication. Mrs. Lewis thanked the Board for listening to the comments made by employees and citizens.

Mrs. Lewis stated the VEA and PTA are promoting better funding of schools. Mrs. Lewis stated there is going to be a rally in Richmond, Virginia on April 18, 2015, and encouraged Board members to attend.

Mr. Scott Strang, citizen and parent, invited Board members to attend the archery tournament at Pleasant View Elementary School on February 21, 2015, from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Mr. Strang stated the Pedlar Ruritan Club is sponsoring the event. Mr. Strang expressed his appreciation to Mr. Stephen Roberts, teacher at Elon Elementary School, for organizing the event.

Mr. Michael O'Brien, Principal of Pleasant View Elementary School and Temperance Elementary School, thanked parents and teachers from the two schools for attending the School Board meeting. Mr. O'Brien stated these two schools are important to the communities. Mr. O'Brien stated the decisions the School Board members have to make are not easy. Mr. O'Brien encouraged Board members to visit the schools. Mr. O'Brien stated that Pleasant View Elementary School and Temperance Elementary School have a lot of learning going on. Mr. O'Brien stated that "small" has tremendous value to the people.

Mrs. Gamble stated consideration of closing Pleasant View Elementary School has a direct impact on the budget. Mrs. Gamble asked that the Board to consider taking action on the matter.

Mrs. Gamble made a motion that no changes will be made to the operations of Pleasant View Elementary School and Temperance Elementary School for the 2015-2016 school year. Mrs. Liggon seconded the motion.

Mrs. Gamble asked for a roll call vote:

AYES: Liggon, Wood, Massie, Gamble, Henderson, Bumgarner

NAYS: None

Pursuant to Section 2.2-3711 (A) (1), of the Code of Virginia, upon motion by Mr. Bumgarner, seconded by Mrs. Massie and unanimously carried, the Board convened a closed meeting for personnel matters.

Mr. Wood stated no action would be taken.

Upon motion by Mrs. Massie, seconded by Mr. Bumgarner and unanimously carried, the Board resumed their meeting in open session.

CERTIFICATION OF CLOSED MEETING

WHEREAS, the Amherst County School Board has convened a closed meeting on this date pursuant to an affirmative record and in accordance with provisions of the Virginia Freedom of Information Act, and

WHEREAS, Section 2.2 - 3712 (D) and 2.2 - 3711 of the Code of Virginia requires a certification by this School Board that such closed meeting was conducted in accordance with provisions of the Freedom of Information Act; and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Amherst County School Board hereby certifies that to the best of each members knowledge (i) only public business matters lawfully exempted from open meeting requirement by Virginia law were discussed in the closed meeting to which certification applies, and (ii) only such public matters as were identified in the motion convening the closed meeting were heard, discussed or considered.

Upon motion by Mrs. Gamble, seconded by Mrs. Liggon and unanimously carried, the Board certified that they discussed only permissible topics.

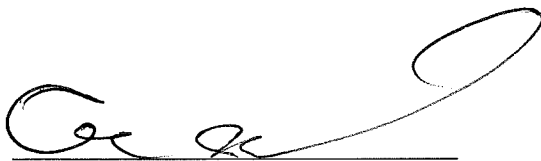
AYES: Liggon, Wood, Massie, Gamble, Henderson, Bumgarner

NAYS: None

Upon motion by Mrs. Massie, seconded by Mrs. Gamble and unanimously carried, the Board adjourned the meeting at 9:10 p.m.



Teresa C. Crouch, Clerk
Amherst County Public Schools



Alan J. Wood, Chairman
Amherst County Public Schools

VIRGINIA: At a regular meeting of the Amherst County School Board held in the School Administration Building, Amherst, Virginia on February 12, 2015, at 6:00.

PRESENT: Alan J. Wood, Chairman
Patricia C. Massie, Vice Chairman
Alan H. Bumgarner
Elizabeth S. Gamble
W. Michael Henderson
Priscilla M. Liggon

Elizabeth Terry, Student Representative (non-voting member)

ABSENT: Randy V. Summers

WHEREAS, the Amherst County School Board has received additional funding for the 2014-15 school session,

State Funds

Clinical Faculty Grant	\$ 50,055
Flow-Through Grant Awarded to ACPS	
New Special Education Regulation – Jail Program	\$ 25,000
State Grant – Reimbursement	
AP Test Fee Reimbursement	\$ 1,554
State Reimbursement for certain Test	

Federal Funds

ABE Regional Program Grant	\$ 25,034
FY14 Carry-Over Funds – Reimbursement	
Title VI-B Special Education Funds	\$125,000
Federal Funds – Reimbursement	

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED, that the members of the Amherst County School Board request the members of the Amherst County Board of Supervisors to consider a supplemental appropriation of \$226,643 to the 2014-15 School Operational Budget revenue and expenditure budget,

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this resolution be presented to the members of the Amherst County Board of Supervisors at their next regular scheduled meeting.



Teresa C. Crouch, Clerk
Amherst County School Board